

INDEPENDENT

The Labor Advocate

NON-PARTISAN

"A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL"

Official Organ of the Building Trades Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity

Vol. III. No. 19

CINCINNATI, OHIO, AUGUST 28, 1915

One Dollar a Year

Ohio Workmen's Compensation In Grave Peril. Sec. Donnelly Presents Startling Statistics

**Labor Demands Safety First and Then Compensation
for the Workers if Injury is Suffered.**

(By THOS. J. DONNELLY, Sec.-Treas.
O. S. F. of L.)

Following the passage of the compulsory workmen's compensation act by the Eightieth General Assembly of Ohio, there was passed the act providing for an Industrial Commission, and transferring to it, among other powers, all of those previously exercised by the State Board of Awards under the voluntary workmen's compensation law. Organized labor favored this law, believing that the grouping of all the State departments having to do with laws affecting labor would prove economical, increase efficiency and promote safety in industry. This commission, having brought before it claims for awards for injuries under the compensation act, can, and does, make a record of the injuries, how received, etc. This furnishes data upon which to work for the greater enforcement of laws pertaining to safeguards upon machinery, etc., and to promote and conduct safety campaigns among both employers and employees. Not alone this, but through its Factory Inspection Department it is enabled to prevent many industrial accidents by insisting upon the proper observance of safety laws in industrial establishments.

Assisting in this campaign of safety has been the Industrial Commission's system of fixing rates for workmen's compensation insurance. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of accidents, their seriousness, the period of invalidity, etc., bringing smaller cost to the employer and greater safety to employees.

Under the liability insurance companies' method of conducting this business for profit, there is no incentive to promote safety campaigns or demand a strict enforcement of all laws requiring safety devices, guards, etc. Rather would the inclination be to let these things take care of themselves, figure the percentage of accidents and assess a like premium upon the careful and careless employer in each industry.

Labor demands safety first, and then compensation for the worker if injury is suffered.

The insurance companies have the mistaken notion that labor is only concerned in the principle of compensation.

By preferential rates, or by penalization, accidents are reduced. This is the State plan. A flat rate for all employers in a given industry, regardless of the percentage of accidents of the individual employer, is the liability companies' plan. Under this plan the law of averages is worked with a vengeance, and there is no escape therefrom for the careful employer. The insurance companies fear a loss of profit in the preferred rate.

It is just this difference in systems and motif that enables the State to furnish workmen's compensation cheaper than the insurance companies.

Speaking upon this question of rates, the Industrial Commission of Ohio, in a pamphlet issued July 1, 1915, says:

"The larger liability insurance companies, known as the Conference Companies, have issued a manual of Workmen's Compensation Rates for Ohio. It will be noted * * * that the liability insurance company rates are just 293

per cent of the Ohio State insurance rates.

"This simply means that, if the Ohio employers had not been protected by the State Insurance Plan and, instead, had been compelled to have purchased their compensation insurance from the liability insurance companies, they would have paid these companies \$2.93 for every \$1.00 they have paid into the Ohio State Insurance Fund.

"The Ohio employers have paid into the Ohio State Insurance Fund to date, in earned premiums, \$4,363,904.13. This means, therefore, that had the Ohio employers been compelled to purchase their compensation insurance from the liability insurance companies, as over the period dating from March 1, 1912, to May 15, 1915, that instead of having purchased the same from the State at a cost of \$4,363,904.13, it would have cost them just 2.93 times \$4,363,904.13, or \$12,786,239.16.

"In other words, the Ohio State insurance plan to date has saved the Ohio employers the difference between \$12,786,239.16 and \$4,363,904.13, which is \$8,422,334.97.

"The foregoing figures indeed furnish material for sober reflection for the very definite reason that they do not represent a theory, but a fact.

"These figures are amazing. However, they represent by no means an exception. The Massachusetts Insurance Department has recently issued a report covering the period dating from January, 1912, to October, 1913. This report shows that the liability insurance companies collected from the Massachusetts employers, as over this period, \$7,451,723.00 in workmen's compensation insurance (earned) premiums. The injured employees of the Massachusetts employers received just \$2,865,706.00 of this amount, the liability insurance companies absorbing the remaining \$4,586,017.00.

"It would be interesting to know just what the liability insurance companies would have done with the excess of \$8,422,334.97 which they would have collected from the Ohio employers had it not been for the existence of the Ohio State Insurance Plan.

"The liability insurance company agents would have received \$2,557,247.82 of this amount, as their commission for getting the business, which is one great expense the Ohio State Insurance Plan has eliminated.

"The salaries to home office officials, rents, adjustment expenses, etc., would have absorbed an additional \$2,557,247.82 of this amount, thereby making a total expense for operation of \$5,114,495.64.

"The Industrial Commission of Ohio is operating the Ohio State Plan at an annual cost of less than \$200,000.

"The remaining \$3,307,839.33 of this \$8,422,334.97 would have gone into the coffers of the liability insurance companies.

"As it is, the Ohio State Insurance Plan has made it possible for the Ohio employers to keep this \$8,422,334.97 in their pockets."

These figures show in part why the insurance interests have been so active at Columbus. They are enjoying good picking in some other States and the Ohio law is a menace to them and their exorbitant profits.

B. & O. BUYS EQUIPMENT.

Baltimore.—The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad announces that it has placed contracts with several steel mills for 17,000 tons of steel rails and with car manufacturers for 1,000 steel hopper car bodies for immediate delivery. The material will cost about \$1,000,000. These orders supplemented contracts placed last month for 2,000 steel hopper cars and 500 passenger cars costing approximately \$2,500,000.

UNIONIZE OLD FIRM.

Hannibal, Mo.—The Holmes-Darkin Cigar Company has reached an agreement with the Cigar Markers' Union. This firm has been doing business for nearly fifty years.

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Holyoke, Mass.—Street car employees in this city have returned to work after a nine days' strike, caused by the company's refusal to accept a readjustment of working schedules. The company finally agreed to the men's arbitration plan, that provides for the appointment of a third member of the board by Governor Walsh.

SEAMEN IN CONVENTION.

San Francisco.—The recently enacted seamen's law was given much consideration by the convention of the International Seamen's Union, held in this city. Delegates and officers reported that the organization is in a flourishing condition.

Formation of Labor Day Parade

**Decided Upon at Meeting of
Committees—Pageant Prom-
ises to Be Largest Ever
Held Here.**

The Labor Day parade promises to be one of the largest ever held in Cincinnati. The line of march and the formation of the parade were officially decided upon at a joint meeting of committees of the Building Trades Council and the Central Labor Council, and a report made at a meeting of the Central Labor Council in Teamsters' Hall. After some discussion the Council decided to appoint a committee to assist the Park Commissioners in arranging for the municipal picnic on Labor Day.

The procession on Labor Day will start at 9:30 in the morning at Findlay and Race streets and will proceed south on Race street to Twelfth street, to Main street, to Fifth street, to Walnut street, to Fourth street, to Plum street, to Ninth street, to Walnut street, to Court street, where it will be reviewed by the Grand Marshal and his staff and then disband.

The formation of the parade follows:

Police.
Grand Marshal, Two Assistants and Staff.
Automobiles of Central Labor Council.
Automobiles of Building Trades Council.
Automobiles of Trades Union Label League.
Band.
Escort of Private Policemen Union, 13130.
Delegates of the Central Labor Council and Building Trades Council.

FIRST DIVISION.

Forms on Race Street, North of Findlay Street.
Facing South.
Division Marshal and Staff.
Band.
Beer Drivers' and Steamers' Union, 175.
Brewery Laborers, Branch 1.
Brewers' Union, 12.
Band.
Bottlers and Bottle Beer Drivers Union, 499.
Band.
Street Car Men's Union, 627.

SECOND DIVISION.

Forms on Findlay Street, East of Race Street.
Facing West.
Division Marshal and Staff.
Band.
Bakers' Union, 213.
Band.
Steam Fitters, 392.
Drum Corps.
Sheet Metal Workers, 141.
Coppersmiths' Local 93.
Band.
Iron Workers, 44.
Moving Picture Operators, 165.
Band.
Chester Park Carnival.

THIRD DIVISION.

Forms on Findlay Street, West of Race Street.
Facing East.
Division Marshal and Staff.
Band.
Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, 222.
Band.
Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, 210.
Band.
Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, 68.
Leather Workers on Horse Goods in Carriages.
Hoisting Engineers, 114.
Axle and Forgers' Union, 42.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Forms on Elder Street, East of Race Street.
Facing West.
Division Marshal and Staff.
Band.
Garment Workers, 100.
Garment Workers, 99, in Automobiles.
Shirt Workers, 151, in Automobiles.
Band.
Journeyman Barbers' Union, 49.
Butcher Workers, 292, in Automobiles.
Band.
Cigar Makers.

FIFTH DIVISION.

Forms on Elder St., West of Race, on North Side of Findlay Street Market, Facing East.
Division Marshal and Staff.
Band.
Teamsters' Union, 108.
City Laborers, 14800.
Band.
Teamsters' Union, 100.
Band.
Teamsters' Union, 98.
Band.
Teamsters' Union, 105, in Automobiles.

SIXTH DIVISION.

Forms on Elder Street, West of Race, South Side of Findlay Market, Facing East.
Division Marshal and Staff.
Band.
Painters' District Council No. 12.
Band.
Painters, 50.
Upholsterers' Union No. 59.
Laundry Workers' No. 37, in Automobiles.
American Flint Glass Workers No. 37.

SEVENTH DIVISION.

Forms on Green Street, East of Race Street.
Facing West.
Division Marshal and Staff.
Band.
Printing Trades Council.
Band.
Typographical Union No. 3.
Printing Pressmen No. 17.
Cincinnati Press Assistants No. 11.
Paper Cutters No. 140.
Granite Cutters No. 1.
Drum Corps.
Firemen's Union No. 49.
Tobacco Workers' No. 25.
Police Automobiles.

Building Trades Council Wins Important Legal Decision When Judge Tarbell Gives Oral Opinion

**Master Plumbers' Association, of Portsmouth, Ohio, At-
tempts to Dissolve Building Trades Council, but Court
Rules Every Point at Issue Against Plaintiffs.**

Portsmouth, Ohio, Aug. 24.—Organized labor won a victory in the local common pleas court this afternoon when Judge J. W. Tarbell, of Georgetown, in an oral opinion, dismissed the petition of the local Master Plumbers' Association to dissolve the Building Trades Council of this city and permanently to enjoin the members from interfering in any way with the plaintiffs.

Every point at issue was decided against the plaintiffs, the Court holding that the working agreement between the two organizations was not unfair to the plaintiffs since they had ratified it knowing its provision; that the alleged unlawful acts of the defendants did not constitute intimidation or coercion; that laboring men have a right to organize into unions, and those unions to affiliate with a central labor body, and that employers had the right to hire and discharge without reason and the employees to work or quit without cause, so long as neither of them is bound by contract.

The suit grew out of the unsuccessful attempt last April of the Master Plumbers' Association to induce journeymen plumbers to modify certain provisions of the working agreement which still had two years to run.

Judge A. Z. Blair, for the plaintiffs, announced that an appeal would be taken to the Court of Appeals. The appeal bond was fixed at \$100.

Nicholas Klein, attorney for the Building Trades Council of Portsmouth, O., makes the following statement:

"In the month of April the Master Plumbers of Portsmouth, Ohio, formed as association and affiliated themselves with the Employers' Association of that city. These Master Plumbers each had a contract with Local Union No. 577 of that city, which contract began May 1, 1914, and was to expire April, 1917.

"It was the usual trades union agreement, fixing the hours of labor, the conditions, etc., and providing for \$3.50 wages per day, from May 1, 1914, to April 30, 1915, and \$4 per day thereafter. In other words, on the first day of May, 1915, each union plumber to receive an increase of fifty cents per day according to the contract signed by both parties.

"In order to avoid this increase of wages, it seems that these Master

Plumbers of Portsmouth formed the association above mentioned, and declared a lockout, locking out all the union help.

"Thereupon, the matter was brought to the attention of the Building Trades Council of Portsmouth, thru Local Union No. 577, one of its affiliated unions, and the said Building Trades Council decided that no union man in Portsmouth shall work with a non-union man, or on the job where a non-union man was employed. In other words, they firmly declared to the employers of Portsmouth that they would stand as a man, upon the theory that an injury to one is an injury to all. Thereupon, these Master Plumbers, to the number of 26, filed a petition in the common pleas court of Scioto County, Ohio, against every business agent and also the following organizations were made party defendants: Carpenters and Joiners' Union of America, Local 437; Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, Local 555; Plumbers and Steam Fitters, Local 577, of U. A.; Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers, Local 323; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 575; Organized Plasterers' International Association, Local 232; Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers, Local 350; Bricklayers' Union No. 39, Portsmouth, Ohio, of the B. M. & P. I. U. of America; the Portsmouth Building Trades Council of Portsmouth, Ohio, and vicinity, and their aiders and abettors whose names are to the plaintiffs unknown.

"This petition, which was filed in the courts, covers about fifty pages of closely typewritten matter.

"Among other things, the employers asked the Court to declare the Building Trades Council of Portsmouth, a conspiracy and an illegal combination, unlawful and against public policy, and asked that the same be dissolved by the Court. They further asked that none of the defendants—that is the local unions or their agents—be permitted to form another association under another name. That the said unions be enjoined forever from boycotting any of the Master Plumbers or from hindering or obstructing their business, or interfering with their patronage or customers, or to procure anyone to cease business relations with them.

(Continued on page 5)

Republican Administration Again Denounced by Building Trades Council, at Regular Meeting

**Firemen Again Painting Engine Houses and Plugs, Con-
trary to Agreement of Twelve Months Ago.**

At the meeting of the Building Trades Council Thursday evening, the present administration was again denounced as being absolutely unfair to union labor. The speeches came as a result of the order to city firemen to paint all the fire-plugs and engine houses within the city limits, thus taking away a source of revenue from the men who gain their livelihood in the painting trade and placing the responsibility of expert workmanship among a class of city employees who know absolutely nothing of the painting trade.

The Administration does this, notwithstanding the fact that a year ago they made an agreement whereby they bound themselves upon the basis of verbal promises not to permit city employees to do the work which should rightfully be done by union labor, and the present complication is taken up by the Building Trades Council as an action unfair to the organized working men of this city.

Union Labor looks upon firemen labor the same as the average man looks upon convict labor.

The meeting was called to order with President Cullen presiding; the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Fred Hock and promptly adopted. A communication from the Ohio State Building Trades Council was read, calling the attention of members that the State Convention will convene at the Hotel Von Hof, Mansfield, Ohio, on October 3.

Another communication from Nicholas Klein, offering to co-operate with the Building Trades Council in framing a suitable memorial to be placed in the cornerstone of the new Court House; this was accepted with thanks.

Business Agent Hock's report was read and adopted. All trades reported business fair.

The Queen City Sign Company and the Novelty Sign Company, were ordered taken off the fair list, as published in the LABOR ADVOCATE.

DEMAND PREVAILING RATE.

Toronto, Ontario.—Local machinists have complained to the department of labor at Ontario that certain manufacturers of war munitions are paying less than the prevailing rates.

ORGANIZATION URGED.

Canton, O.—The Carpenters' Union has appointed a committee to act with the Central Labor Union and the Building Trades Council in starting an organizing campaign in this city.